

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

TUNING ORES.

Sir.—Work after work have I taken up your valuable Journal, in the hope and expectation that the attention of the mining world (as far as our English mines are concerned) would be awakened to the movements of those interested in the working of foreign mines. Unless immediate counteracting steps be taken, I fear the Government will be prevailed on to consent to a very considerable reduction of the duty on lead imposed on the introduction of foreign ores. The miners, I am told, is now under the serious consideration of the Government, and a kind of half promise given that some reduction shall be made. I can only account for the inattention of the public English miners to this matter, by supposing that they have considered themselves safe from such a reduction, in consequence of the state of things in the new tariff having been adopted by the Government (after the full attention and consideration given to the various representations made by both parties) as a just measure, and, consequently, not to be so soon disturbed. At that time, the home miners certainly feared the scale was too much in favor of the foreign—with what reason may, in some measure, be gathered from the fact of the quantity alone brought in having increased, and the standard being consequently depressed. What the foreign miners have to offer to entice the Government of the policy of such a change is not easily discovered; since, in the first place, they have not imported a less quantity under the new tariff, but an increased one; but, they have been paid from 7 to 10 in the standard more than under the bonding system, which has been more than equal to the duty they have paid; and, though last, certainly not the least consideration, they have not written immediate ore for their own, whilst under the former system the state of the foreign copper market was well considered before our miners burdened themselves with more ore. I suspect the real cause for the desire of a reduction in the duty is to be found in the increased depth, and consequent increased expenditures, of the Cuban mines; but, easily, this might be weighed with the circumstance in favor of our home mines, since the same miners are operating in them to diminish the profits, with the further disadvantage of the quality or produce of the English ones being only about one-third of that of the foreign. With these remarks I leave the matter in your hands.—Nov. 29.

O. P. S.

[These observations on this correspondence will be found in another column.]

NEW SYSTEM OF RAILWAY AND CARRIAGES.

Sir.—Major Peltier described in your Journal of the 23d inst. a railway carriage of his invention, and exhibited in that description some remarks on other systems. Will you allow me to ask a few questions, and to make a few observations, through the medium of your valuable paper?

Major Peltier says, "I am not sure that Mr. Frouard's plan admits of easily passing, by carriages or other contrivances, from one line to another; (but) may I ask how Major F. proposes to perform that operation with his horizontal guides? With wooden spoked wheels, and a belt, leather, or bungee-holding; Major F. proposes to do away with all springs; are not springs more requisite for wooden spoked wheels than for iron ones?—Will not wooden spoked wheels sooner lose their circular form, especially if, with fixed axles, the carriages are made to turn in curves of short radii?—When you inform me what is meant by bungee-holding?—By making the flat rail to project inwardly, Major Peltier acknowledges the possibility of the horizontal guide wheels being forced up sufficiently to pass over the rail, if there were no projection of the rail; is it not, therefore, also possible that the wheel may be forced upwards with sufficient violence to be broken as it comes in contact with the rail?—And would it not be requisite to have the carriage wheels made with flanges as usual, to avoid accidents arising from the possible rupture of the guide wheels?

Major Peltier having referred to Mr. Arrowsmith's plan, and to the guide wheels adopted by Mr. Frouard, which guide wheels are part of Mr. Arrowsmith's patent, it would be interesting to know to whom those guide wheels really belong. I am not aware of the date of Mr. Frouard's patent, but know that Mr. Arrowsmith has a patent for them; now, if Mr. Arrowsmith's patent is dated anterior to that of Mr. Frouard, and if the guide wheels are the same in both patents, would not Mr. Frouard's application thereof be an infringement upon Mr. Arrowsmith's patent? Mr. Arrowsmith's English patent was, I think, issued in 1837 or 1838, and, having been tried with success at Paris, a line-hauling car of a very short radius, from twenty yards and upwards, a railway is now being made between Paris and Bremen upon his principle, to be in operation in the course of next year.

You will observe, by looking over the report and drawings which I forward for your consideration, that Mr. Arrowsmith's patent does not rest alone upon the guide wheels, but that he has adopted a very ingenious method of placing every rail in a radial direction to whatever serves the train may be passing over.

H. H. R. New York.

Signed again, Nov. 29.

THE HYDRAULIC RAILWAY.

Sir.—Mr. Shattock is still determined to elaborate all I say, although he pronounces a great desire to know the public opinion of his proposed railway system. He is the last man who should talk of offering a guarantee on style of construction, "for he has a most unfortunate way of writing this in such a manner as to make it look as if he were the only one who could do it." His letters contained one of a class of literary novelties who shrink from their pen, instead of thinking first and writing afterwards. A short hand and a knowledge of his subject enable a writer to compose without the assistance of an inferior propensity of division; to be brief without minuteness, and any addition were a needless encumbrance.

Mr. Shattock says of me, as concerning his letter, "It is sufficient for me that he is helping forward my invention," while, in concluding the same, he expresses his opinion, "He is the only man who should talk of offering a guarantee on style of construction," for he has a most unfortunate way of writing this in such a manner as to make it look as if he were the only one who could do it.

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